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The View From (Army) Space ... “What’s the Army doing in Space?”

By Col. Glen C. Collins, Jr.

“**T**he Army is developing high-quality professional Space officers to work in the joint Space force, fielding a family of ground-based Space control negation and surveillance systems, and integrating Space into terrestrial operations.” If someone asks you, “What is the Army doing in Space?” that should be your answer.

This edition of the *Army Space Journal* addresses this last item of integration of Space into terrestrial operations.

The Army Space Command is the primary conductor of Space operations. We in the Force Development and Integration Center (FDIC) and your Functional Area 40 (FA 40) proponent office, the Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab (SMDBL), the Space and Missile Defense Technology Center (SMDTC), and the Army Space Program Office (ASPO) are your schoolhouse and “TRADOC-like” support.

Collectively, we represent “Fort Space” whose geographical center is in Colorado Springs, but of course is distributed also in the Washington, D.C. area and Huntsville, Ala.

We are making good progress in several areas in support of Space operations. Doctrine is being written for a revised Army Space operations manual — to be renumbered as FM 3-14 — with accompanying manuals for Army Space Support Team operations, Joint Tactical Ground Stations/multimission mobile processor, and Space control operations. We are working with Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) on Space-based infrared system (SBIRS) and the Space-based radar (SBR). In both cases, the Army is focused on the user ground segment and will model its work in SBR on the SBIRS program.

We are also working with the Army information and

signal community to rapidly develop and deploy a Blue Force Tracking system that will support today’s global war on terrorism and point us toward the Objective Force. ASPO has already fielded Grenadier Beyond line-of-sight Reporting and Tracking (BRAT); both SMDBL and SMDTC have programs that will provide both friendly force tracking and communications and situational awareness to the dismounted soldier or platform.

We are also working with the National Security Space Architect to transform the satellite communications fleets to meet the needs of the services as we transform to a 21st century force. Both Army Space Command and FDIC are working improvements in the use of commercial imagery from Space, and improvements in multi-spectral and hyper-spectral imagery, with possible materiel solutions through a mobile processing platform (the MOPED) and a direct-downlink imagery platform (Eagle Vision II). Both are now in stages of combat development.

Our Space control program is also moving down the technology and combat development pathways through the benefits of excellent relationships formed with AFSPC and U.S. Space Command on defining our way ahead. Our Space Modernization Strategy pulls all these programs together into a coherent investment plan for the Army.

Most of you should be up to speed on the findings of the Space Commission and the Secretary of Defense’s implementation of those findings. We have actively worked this implementation for more than a year, and are now in its final stages. It appears that the major impacts on the Army will be that the Air Force will be the executive agent for Space, with the exact responsibilities being defined now.

The Air Force will also be the acquisition executive

An overview of Salt Lake City area with 3-D insert views. These views illustrate the potential use to Space Operations Officers for smaller areas of interest at higher resolution.



for Space, which will impact on most of our Space programs. In addition, the creation of a Space funding mechanism (the military funding program) along with the Undersecretary of the Air Force/Space becoming the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) has allowed the nation's Space forces to begin to gain form and become a true "community." Finally, the National Security Space Architect is also under the Undersecretary of the Air Force/Space and has expanded responsibilities.

The Army is also increasing its leadership role in the Space community. One of the outcomes of the Space Force Management Analysis was a decision for an increased Army presence in the Space community.

This decision has led to the addition of four FA 40s in the NRO and the creation of an NRO-Army Coordination team. This team consists of two military intelligence officers, two FA 40s, one combat arms officer and one acquisition officer.

We are actively pursuing positions in various Air Force Space units, Space and Missile Command in Los Angeles, Joint Tactical Force-Department of Defense Manager Space at Patrick Air Force Base, and have increased our FA 40 positions on the Army Staff by several fold. At the flag level, currently both the Deputy Commander in Chief and the J5 in U.S. Space Command

are soldiers; for the first time ever, a soldier has filled the position of Director, National Security Space Architect. Brig. Gen. Stephen Ferrell was recently appointed to this position, building upon his experience as the U.S. Space Command J5 and an Assistant Division Commander for 3rd Infantry Division. FDIC and the FA 40 proponent office will continue to pursue any opportunity to expand FA 40 presence in the Space community.

Whenever you are conducting Space operations and discover problems in Doctrine, Training, Leadership, Organization, Materiel, and Soldier issues, send an email, prepare an after action report, or just call FDIC either at our Colorado Springs or Washington, D.C. offices and let us know your observations. Our relationship to you is no different than the one you had with your schoolhouse at Fort Rucker, Fort Sill, Fort Bliss, Fort Huachuca, Fort Gordon, etc.

When you are deployed, conducting Space operations, and answering the tough questions of the operations officer or commander, never feel you are alone. Army Space Command is ready to support and to answer your immediate needs through reachback operations; FDIC is ready to make the long-term fixes to ensure improvements and progress in our mission accomplishments. "Fort Space" is ready to back you up.

Together we will "secure the high ground!"

comments